



16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

Day 14

Speak Up!

Violence against women is predictable and preventable.

Levels of violence against women are not the same in all places and at all times. By identifying the social, cultural, legal and economic factors that influence such violence, it is possible to predict its occurrence and to understand how to prevent it. School-based programs to prevent dating violence, reducing the harmful use of alcohol, changing social and cultural norms through education and awareness raising, intervening when children are abused to avert their later involvement in violence, and enacting and enforcing gun laws relating to violent offenders, can all reduce violence against women.

In the U.S., women are 16 times more likely to be killed by guns than in other developed countries. Further, an analysis of every mass shooting between 2009 – 2016 found that 54% were committed by intimate partners or family. It has also been confirmed that when a gun is present in a domestic violence situation, it increased the risk of homicide for women by OVER 500%. We need to look at why those convicted of intimate partner violence are allowed to have guns. We are well aware of 2nd Amendment rights, but what about the intimate partner's right to life? Who is speaking for these now silent witnesses? We must be their voice. Speak up today. Write a letter to the editor, to your law makers and to your school board. Be the voice that will not be silenced until real change is made. The time is now.

